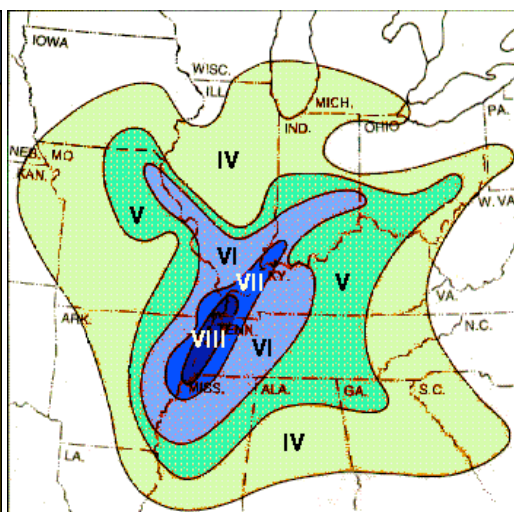


**Modified Mercalli Scale.** The Mercalli Scale uses Roman numerals, I through XII, to establish levels of destruction, ground motion, and impact on humans.

The Mercalli Scale is not a precise measurement. It is based on observations people make after a quake. For example, if hanging objects swing back and forth, dishes and windows rattle, and there is slight damage, the earthquake may be rated a IV on the Mercalli Scale. The intensity of an earthquake for an area depends on several factors. One of these factors is how far buildings are from the epicenter. Another factor is the type of ground under the buildings. If buildings are constructed on solid rock, they will have less damage than buildings built on less stable sediments.

Below is the Mercalli Scale and to the right is a map showing the intensity of the New Madrid earthquake of 1812.

Modified Mercalli Scale		Richter Magnitude Scale
I	Detected only by sensitive instruments	1.5
II	Felt by few persons at rest, especially on upper floors; delicately suspended objects may swing	2
III	Felt noticeably indoors, but not always recognized as earthquake; standing autos rock slightly, vibration like passing truck	2.5
IV	Felt indoors by many, outdoors by few, at night some may awaken; dishes, windows, doors disturbed; motor cars rock noticeably	3
V	Felt by most people; some breakage of dishes, windows, and plaster; disturbance of tall objects	3.5
VI	Felt by all, many frightened and run outdoors; falling plaster and chimneys, damage small	4
VII	Everybody runs outdoors; damage to buildings varies depending on quality of construction; noticed by drivers of automobiles	4.5
VIII	Panel walls thrown out of frames; fall of walls, monuments, chimneys; sand and mud ejected; drivers of autos disturbed	5
IX	Buildings shifted off foundations, cracked, thrown out of plumb; ground cracked; underground pipes broken	5.5
X	Most masonry and frame structures destroyed; ground cracked, rails bent, landslides	6
XI	Few structures remain standing; bridges destroyed, fissures in ground, pipes broken, landslides, rails bent	6.5
XII	Damage total; waves seen on ground surface, lines of sight and level distorted, objects thrown up into air	7



<http://www.hsv.com/genlintr/newmadrid/>

If you lived in Chicago during the New Madrid earthquake of 1812 mapped here, what might you have experienced?

If you lived in St. Louis during the New Madrid earthquake of 1812 mapped here, what might you have experienced?

[http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/usa\\_map.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/usa_map.htm)  
<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Extension/image/earthquake5.html>